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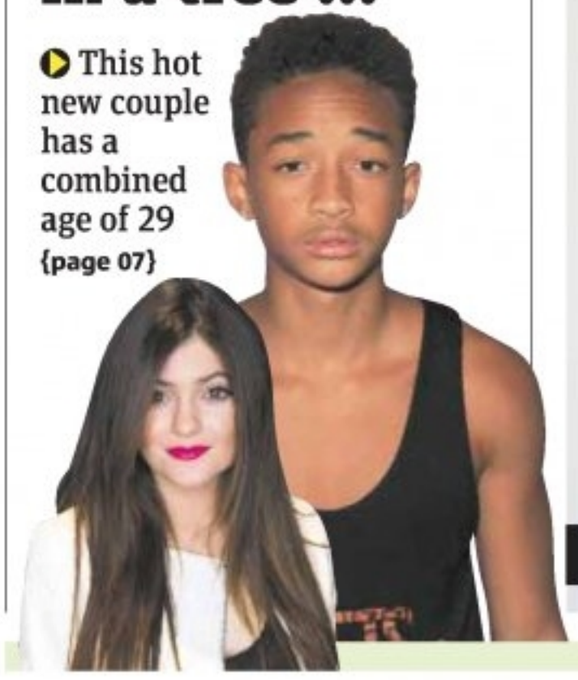
BOSTON
Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Bulger's immunity issue will not be heard by jury

Federal judge's ruling deals a blow to the key defense of Boston's notorious alleged mob boss Judge said issue could potentially confuse, distract jurors Defense attorney says Whitey is being denied right to fair trial {page 02}

the word

Jaden and Kylie, sittin' in a tree ...



This hot new couple has a combined age of 29 {page 07}

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Modern day. Mary Kay

▶ Jasmina Aganovic, founder and CEO of the successful Boston-based online cosmetics company Bona Clara, has created a new technology that she says brings home business into the 21st century. {page 04}

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1

In the news

929

MBTA Transit Police said Monday that they have issued more than 900 fare evasion citations system-wide so far this year. More than 4,700 fare-evasion citations were issued all of last year. The effort is part of "Operation Fare Game" and will continue, police said. METRO

Today's local tweet

"3 E-line trains in a row? C'mon #MBTA, you're killing me! And making me late to class..."

@AGDILSWORTH LEARNED THE HARD WAY THE RULE OF THE E TRAIN: THERE WHEN YOU DON'T NEED IT, NEVER THERE WHEN YOU DO.

News in brief

Police hunting JP robber

JAMAICA PLAIN. Boston police are searching for the man who held up two people last week near the Eliot School in Jamaica Plain. Police released surveillance images of the suspected armed robber yesterday. The first robbery took place Thursday outside the Eliot School on Eliot Street. A man walking near the school was robbed of his phone and wallet by the suspect who displayed a gun. The second robbery took place at about 6 p.m. the day before inside the school and also involved a gun. Anyone with information can call 617-343-5628. METRO

▶ This surveillance image provides little detail.

Bulger's defense dealt a blow with judge's ruling

◗ Judge Richard Stearns says a jury will not resolve Bulger's claim of immunity ◗ Also denies assertion that mob boss had immunity for life

A federal judge dealt a blow to the key defense of alleged mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger in a ruling issued Monday that said the judge, not a jury, will be the one to resolve Bulger's claim of immunity.

Federal Judge Richard Stearns also ruled against part of Bulger's immunity claim, which has been the highly contested issue of the last few months of the case.

"Pretrial denial of defendant's immunity claim would narrow the focus of the inquiry at trial, thereby limiting the scope of evidence to be presented and the potential for jury confusion and distraction," Stearns wrote in his 20-page ruling. "Conversely, a finding that the defendant's prosecution is barred by a valid grant of immunity would prevent an unnecessary trial and the expenditure of considerable public resources. Under these circumstances, it would present a disservice to judicial economy and the orderly administration of justice to sit idly by awaiting the raising of an objection that is now ripe and which defendant has unequivocally indicated his intent to invoke."

▶ Bulger

Bulger's charges

Bulger's trial is set for June.

- He is charged with racketeering, murder and other crimes for his alleged involvement in 19 killings while he was leader of the Winter Hill Gang.
- His attorney recently said that he was never an informant, but offered no reason why Bulger was given immunity.

Quoted

"The court concludes that any grant of prospective immunity to commit murder was without authorization and is hence unenforceable under any circumstance."

JUDGE RICHARD STEARNS

Bulger's attorney, J. W. Carney Jr., has said he wants the jury to hear and decide the issue of immunity and has said that the 83-year-old fugitive would testify about it during the June trial. Carney has said that Bulger was granted immunity by former federal prosecutor Jeremiah O'Sullivan. O'Sullivan has since died.

"To remove his defense of immunity from being presented to the jury … would in effect deny him his right to a fair trial," Carney said during a court hearing on the matter last month.

However, prosecutors have said they want the matter resolved before trial and that Carney has no legal standing for the immunity claim nor has he presented any solid evidence to support it.

In his ruling, Stearns also denied Bulger's assertion that he was granted "prospective immunity." Stearns said he will still hear arguments on the issue of "historical immunity."

Michael Naughton
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Circus. Preview

▶ Contortionist Elayne Kramer, star of the Big Apple Circus, shows off her skills outside of Faneuil Hall Marketplace yesterday.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Contortionist bends minds in Boston

Contortionist Elayne Kramer, one of the stars of the Big Apple Circus, gave audiences a sneak peek in Faneuil Hall yesterday in advance of the Big Top coming to Boston's City Hall Plaza on March 26. The Argentinean-born body-bender performed hand balancing and contortion with fantastic flexibility and poise. The circus will be in town through May 12. METRO

News in brief

No charges for fireman accused of threats

BOSTON. A fireman accused of making threats against the Boston Fire Department will not face charges. During a court hearing Monday, officials said there was not enough evidence to prosecute Boston firefighter Kenneth Veiga, according to NECN. Veiga was placed on leave after he allegedly made threats referencing a LAPD officer who went on a fatal shooting rampage. Veiga was upset with having to see a department doctor, police said at the time. METRO

By the numbers

The results of Boston's homeless population count showed an increase in the number of people living on the streets and in shelters from 2011 to 2012.

33

The city conducted its 33rd annual homeless census in December.

6,992

During the December count, there were 6,992 men, women and children living in shelters, on the street and in transitional programs in Boston.

5.2%

That's a 5.2 percent increase from the 2011 census, the city said.

350

More than 350 volunteers helped count the homeless population during the most recent census late last year. METRO

Tall order: Cop doesn't give up on chase, leaps rooftops to arrest men

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ From left, Boston Police Officers Eliseo Marrero, James O'Loughlin and Michael Holden discuss arrest of six individuals in Roxbury.

Those arrested

The arrested suspects were arraigned Monday.

- The six men range in age from 20 to 38.
- Five of the men were ordered held on $200,000 cash bail. The other was ordered held on $50,000 cash bail.
- One of the men, Maykor Baez, 20, of Roslindale, had his bail on an open case revoked. He was released in December after his 2011 arrest for gun and drug possession because his drugs were tested by alleged rogue chemist Annie Dookhan.

It's a police chase more commonly seen in a movie, but one officer from the Boston Police Department actually chased a group of men across rooftops last weekend, jumping from one to the other.

Police were called to 580 Blue Hill Avenue in Roxbury just after midnight Saturday for a report of a man with a gun. When officers arrived they could hear a disturbance coming from inside the building and stationed themselves at all possible exit points.

Standing at the back of the building, Officer Michael Holden saw three men try to leave, but the men saw him and allegedly ran into a nearby building, police said.

Holden chased them into that building and up to the roof.

With Holden right behind them, the men jumped from one roof to another, even with a 4-foot gap separating the buildings that were four stories high.

Holden didn't want to give up on the chase and leave himself in a vulnerable position, so he decided to follow them.

"I gave it some serious consideration and decided to follow them over," Holden said. "Luckily for me I was able to place all three of them under arrest with very little incident."

Officers Eliseo Marrero and James O'Loughlin also made their way up to the roof to assist Holden after breaking through a nailed-shut door leading to the top of the building.

Three other men inside the apartment were also arrested by officers.

▶ Some of the drugs

Drug charges

It appeared from the police statement that the three men who fled to the rooftops had a reason to run. Police said their search of the apartment netted three guns, a bullet proof vest, 12 pounds of marijuana, more than 200 grams of cocaine and 190 grams of heroin.

Police estimated the drugs had a street value of about $50,000.

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In the news

President's latest cabinet picks have ties to the Bay State

Two of the latest nominees to President Barack Obama's cabinet have strong ties to Massachusetts.

Obama said yesterday he was nominating Boston native Gina McCarthy, a veteran at the Environmental Protection Agency, to be the next EPA administrator, and scientist Ernest Moniz from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to be the next Energy secretary.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Moniz and McCarthy

McCarthy has perviously worked for Obama's 2012 presidential opponent, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

"Gina has focused on practical, cost-effective ways to keep our air clean and our economy growing," Obama said at the White House, ribbing McCarthy for her Boston accent.

Moniz, a former undersecretary of energy during the Clinton administration, is currently director of MIT's Energy Initiative, a research group that gets funding from industry kingpins, including BP and Chevron, for projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gases. **REUTERS**

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In the news

Mansfield dog put down after attacks

Milo, the dog responsible for attacking two people in separate incidents and ordered to be put down by Mansfield town officials, was euthanized yesterday. The pointer/hound mix was surrendered by the family to the town, said Mansfield Police Chief Arthur O'Neill.

The town's animal control officer said the dog was euthanized at about 1:30 p.m.

Last week the Mansfield Board of Selectmen made a controversial decision and voted to have Milo put down after the town's animal control officer deemed him a "dangerous dog."

WBZ-TV

O'Neill said that while the decision to put down an animal is never easy, the most recent attack just proves that town officials made the right decision after the first attack.

The most recent attack occurred Saturday when Milo bit his owner's 16-year-old daughter. The bite was so severe that the teen was being treated at Hasboro Children's Hospital in Rhode Island.

The original attack involved a 6-year-old boy being babysat at the home who required 400 stitches, according to The Sun Chronicle. MICHAEL NAUGHTON

Hub skin care pioneer could be a modern Mary Kay

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Jasmina Aganovic's downtown Boston office is lined with Bona Clara products.

As the founder and CEO of the successful Boston-based online cosmetics shop Stages of Beauty, MIT graduate Jasmina Aganovic is no stranger to building a business.

That's why when the 25-year-old officially launched a new skin care line, Bona Clara, last month, she decided her sales reps needed a way to make their part of the business feel like their own.

Enter Beauty Match, a new technology that Aganovic personally pioneered into development using her own software team. The idea came after Aganovic, who studied chemical and biological engineering at MIT, contacted repeat buyers on Stages of Beauty's website to get feedback. She was surprised to find that customers were "social selling" by recommending products to friends and family using social media.

"It was my lightbulb moment," says Aganovic. "I told these clusters of repeat customers, 'Do what you do and I'll pay you to fuel additional growth.'" The only hiccup: The tools to enable her new recruits to do their job didn't exist. "There was a huge gap in the technology for the home business. I wanted to create a modern-day business for modern women," she said.

Aganovic struggled with third-party software companies to perfect a platform and eventually hired her own software staff to create Beauty Match, which launched yesterday.

Beauty Match serves as the interface between the reps, the third-party order fulfillment center and Aganovic. It allows reps to work individually, yet still be a part of the company.

Reps get their own personal e-commerce site, where they can place orders, connect with other consultants and manage their team.

1.6K

Bona Clara already has 1,600 national brand reps signed on.

$215K

"I paid out $215,000 in commission while we were still in development," says Aganovic. "Now we really have our ducks lined up. I can't wait to see what happens."

Linda Clarke
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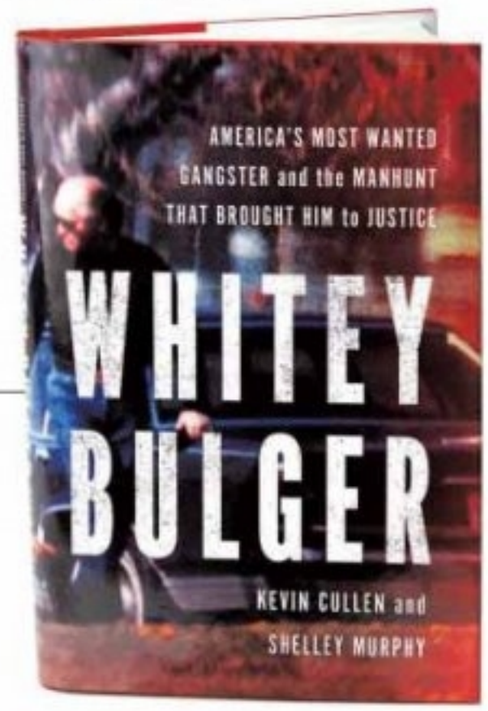
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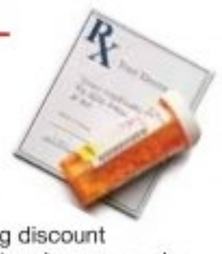

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In the news

Biden: Obama is 'not bluffing' on stopping Iran's nuclear drive

WASHINGTON. Vice President Joe Biden told America's biggest pro-Israel lobbying organization yesterday that President Barack Obama is "not bluffing" about the United States' determination to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.

"The president of the United States cannot and does not bluff. President Barack Obama is not bluffing," he told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in a speech to its annual policy conference.

"While that window is closing, we believe there is still time and space [for diplomacy]," he added.

The United States and many of its allies suspect Iran may be using its civil nuclear program as a cover to develop atomic weapons, a possibility that Israel, which is regarded as the Middle East's only nuclear power, sees as a mortal threat. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in Iran hosts this reactor building.

Quoted

"We're not looking for war. We're ready to negotiate peacefully. But all options including military force are on the table." BIDEN

President renews offer to cut social safety nets

President Barack Obama raised anew the issue of cutting entitlements such as Medicare and Social Security as a way out of damaging budget cuts, a White House official said on Sunday, as both sides tried to limit a fiscal crisis.

Signaling he might be ready to explore a compromise to end automatic spending cuts that began late Friday, Obama mentioned reforming these entitlement programs in calls with lawmakers from both parties on Saturday afternoon.

"He's reaching out to Democrats who understand we have to make serious progress on long-term entitlement reform and Republicans who realize that if we had that type of entitlement reform, they'd be willing to have tax reform that raises revenues to lower the deficit," White House senior economic official Gene Sperling said on Sunday on the CNN program "State of the Union."

Republicans have argued that the only way to tame budget deficits over the long haul is by slowing the cost of sprawling social safety net programs.

These include the Social Security retirement program and Medicare and Medicaid healthcare programs for the elderly, disabled and poor that are becoming more expensive as a large segment of the U.S. population hits retirement age. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Reforming Social Security might be on the table.

750K

Economists have warned that such a heavy dose of belt tightening over such a short period will slow U.S. economic growth and potentially cost 750,000 jobs.

Problems may come soon

$85 billion in indiscriminate spending cuts kicked in after both parties failed to agree on how to stop them.

The Democrats predict the automatic cuts could soon cause air-traffic delays, meat shortages as food safety inspections slow down, and hundreds of thousands of furloughs for federal workers.

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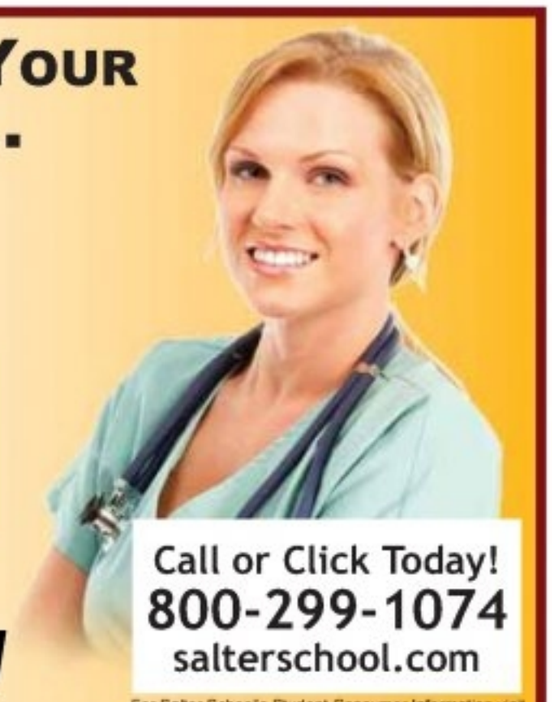

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Jaden Smith's new squeeze

Hot. Shot

JAMES DEVANEY/WIREIMAGE

Courtside canoodling with Mary-Kate

Every time I see Mary-Kate Olsen, 26, making out with her 43-year-old boyfriend, French financier Olivier Sarkozy, I think: "Why is there an Olsen kissing Tom Hanks?" Here, the couple was up for some courtside PDA at Madison Square Garden during the Miami Heat vs. New York Knicks game on Sunday.

In today's "Lifestyles of The Rich and Famous: The Prepubescent Set" it looks like **Jaden Smith**, 14, and **Kylie Jenner**, 15, are going steady. Smith, who was in London recently for **Justin Bieber**'s 19th birthday party (more on that later), took Jenner to Caffe Nero in London's Piccadilly Square on Sunday. "They're dating," says a source close to Jenner. "It's new, but they've been friends forever."

So welcome to your future: We're going to be reading about who these two are dating for the next 30 years — starting now. Horrifying, isn't it?

More on Bieber's 'worst' birthday

Justin Bieber is backtracking that his birthday was "the worst" — as he said on Twitter — because his friends were barred entry to the club where he was celebrating because they were underage. "I love how the club wanted to give the press another reason to why we didn't stay at their weak-ass club so they wouldn't look bad for me walking in and right back out," he wrote on Instagram. "I said 'worst birthday,' but that was due to dummies pushing over my fans," he writes.

GETTY IMAGES

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Elizabeth Banks is trying to help, David Copperfield is having a rough flight and Steven Soderbergh doesn't get the hype.

@ElizabethBanks
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@D_Copperfield
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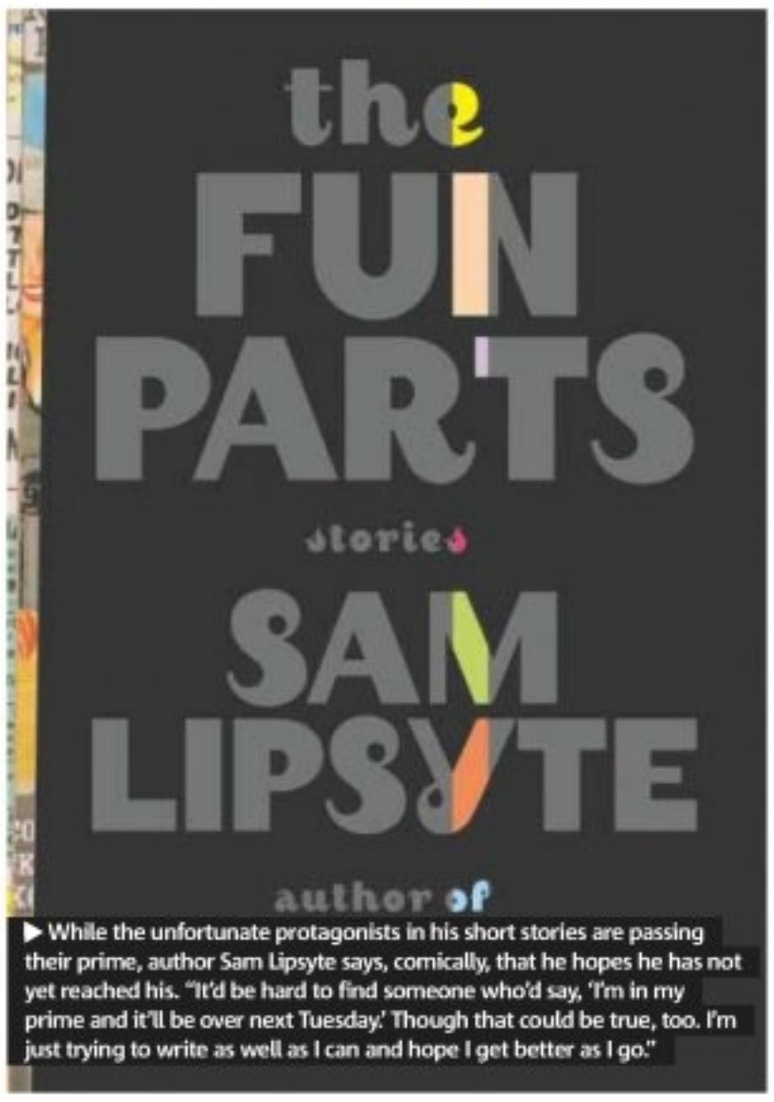

▶ While the unfortunate protagonists in his short stories are passing their prime, author Sam Lipsyte says, comically, that he hopes he has not yet reached his. "It'd be hard to find someone who'd say, 'I'm in my prime and it'll be over next Tuesday.' Though that could be true, too. I'm just trying to write as well as I can and hope I get better as I go."

Life, as it really is

The old saying 'comedy is tragedy plus time' rings true in Sam Lipsyte's short story collection 'The Fun Parts'

To the chagrin of your peers, have you ever cracked up at the most malapropos moments: grim, vulgar or absurd? Like the loathsome, self-loathing and yet somehow lovable characters in his short story collection "The Fun Parts," Sam Lipsyte gives his readers, too, the license to shamelessly laugh through tears and cry through laughter. We ask the author about his 13 not-so-fun, but oh-so-funny tales of redemption.

What is it about your contemptible protagonists — addicts, poseurs, cast-offs and outcasts — that makes them so engaging, even likable?

When you get the right kind of language going with these characters, especially when they're narrating, they're able to get across a sense of life as it really feels. Even if it's not a pretty picture, it's filled with a raw humor and openness. We recognize aspects of ourselves in them.

I strive for intimacy. I don't want to mock [my characters]; they mock themselves. And whenever they interact with the world, they tend to lose, but that doesn't make them losers.

Many of your protagonists blame their problems, without resentment, on flawed parenting. What do you think we inherit from our parents?

I have kids myself, so I'm thinking about these things. The scariest thing is that my own parents have no idea which moments that made a difference because they were usually so banal. You would never remember doing them in your own lifetime but your child is studying you and freezes them forever. I hope that with my children I'm saying the right thing when they're taking the picture.

It seems that we meet each character at the beginning of the end of a major crisis.

I'm always interested in characters that have their backs into the corner as we begin; it adds more tension. We end up getting the backstory anyway to some degree, right? You have to design a machine that will feed information in a way that seems part of the thrill. An old teacher of mine once said, "There's no getting to the good parts."

Or "the fun parts."

[Laughs] Right.

Gina Angelotti
gina.angelotti@metro.us

Q&A

CEREMEN MORRIS

▶ Lipsyte

How do you find humor in life's unsung tragedies?

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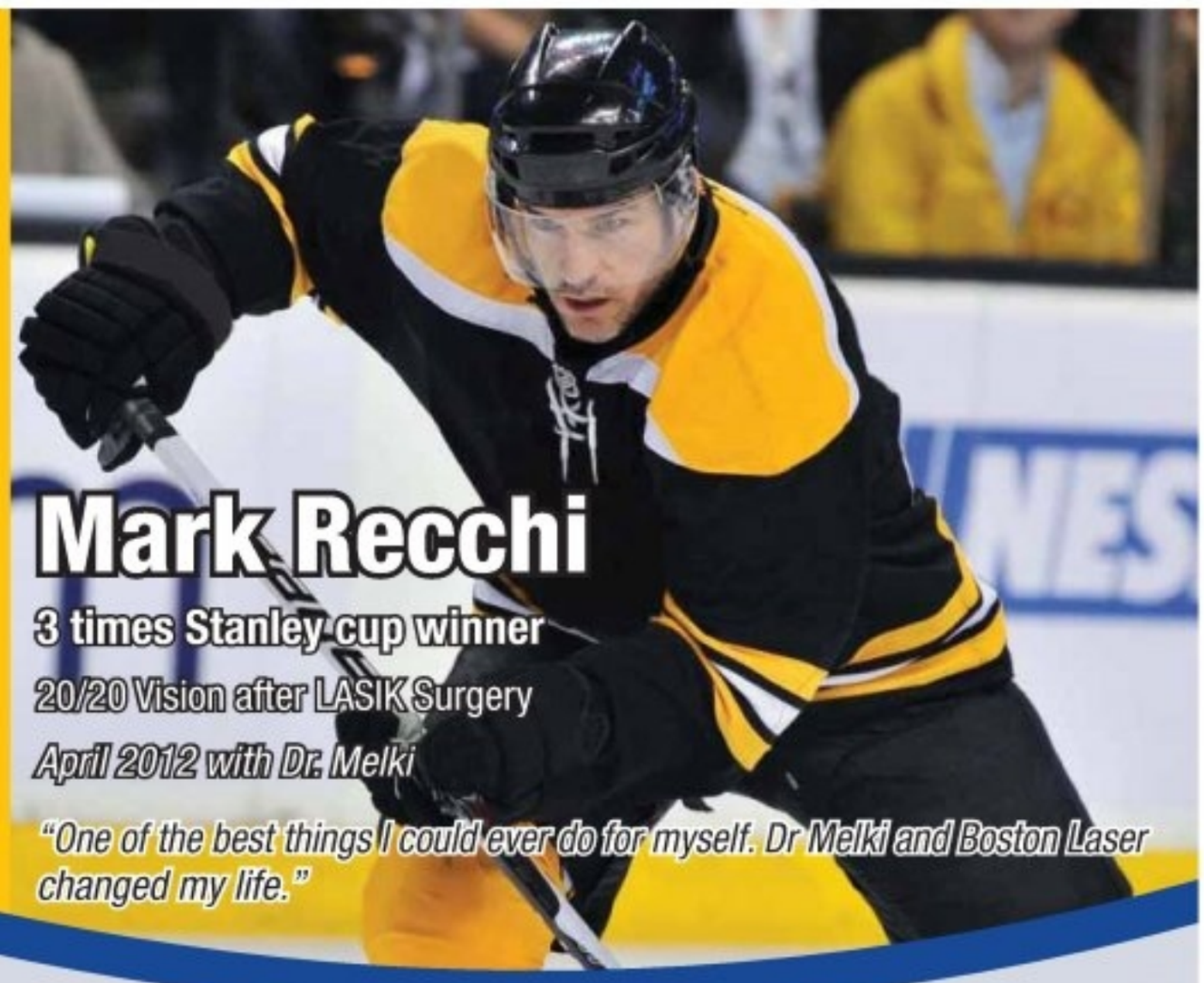

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TV watch list

'The Greatest'

SPECIAL. This addictive VH1 series, which features countdowns spotlighting music's best players, takes a peek at the 100 sexiest artists of all time. The first of five parts airs tonight. We're keeping our fingers crossed that a bald Britney Spears at least cracks the Top 10. **9 p.m., VH1**

'White Collar'

DRAMA. Season 4 culminates in a showdown at the Empire State Building. We're going to guess this use of the Manhattan skyscraper is a bit more "King Kong" than "Sleepless in Seattle." **Season finale, 10 p.m., USA**

'Smash'

DRAMA. If you aren't already watching this iffy series, Sean Hayes' guest stint probably won't be enough to entice you. But if you're a longtime "Will & Grace" fan, at least you know that two of its cast members (Hayes and Debra Messing) are reuniting at last, even if they don't share any scenes. **10 p.m., NBC**

'The Daily Show with Jon Stewart'

TALK SHOW. Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female justice appointed to the Supreme Court, swings by to chat with Jon Stewart about her new book. Forbes calls O'Connor one of the most powerful women alive, so we'll take a dose of the 82-year-old vanguard anywhere we can get it. **11 p.m., Comedy Central**

MATTHEW JACOBS

▶ The always funny Sean Hayes begins his guest-starring gig on "Smash" tonight.

GETTY IMAGES/NBCUNIVERSAL

Television news

Heidi Klum is new judge on 'America's Got Talent'

Supermodel and television host Heidi Klum said on Monday that she will be a new judge on the popular summer TV talent show "American's Got Talent."

Klum will join comedian Howie Mandel, radio "shock jock" Howard Stern and former Spice Girl Mel B on the show hosted by Nick Cannon.

"Excited 2 join @HowardStern @howiemandel @OfficialMelB & @NickCannon on @nbcagt as new judge! Will be so fun," Klum tweeted.

Broadcaster NBC said Klum, 39, adds a discerning taste to the jury panel.

"As we look to develop an act that will get the world's attention, we and the contestants will benefit from Heidi's international sensibility and understanding of what works in today's global entertainment industry," NBC president of alternative programming, Paul Telegdy, said in a statement. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Heidi Klum's about to find out who's got talent.

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To learn more, please contact:

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myparenting

Pregnancy trends for 2013

Whether it's taking a mommy-moon or hosting an at-home ultrasound party, the big arrival is a big deal What you'll be seeing this year

Fear not, moms-to-be: Being pregnant doesn't mean you have to give up on the trends. We caught up with Elena Mauer, deputy editor of Thebump.com, to learn what first-time moms should look out for in the coming year.

Going green ... with baby names

Pantone named emerald as the color of the year for 2013, so expect to see baby names like Hunter, Jade, Kelly and Forest increasing in popularity in the coming months. Even celebrities have been swept up in the trend (Drew Barrymore named her new baby girl Olive). "It's neat that green and these other natural shades are inspiring baby names," says Mauer.

Ultrasound parties

Parents-to-be are going beyond the usual baby shower or gender reveal party, which is when "you would cut a cake and the icing in the middle was either pink or blue, and that told you the baby's gender," Mauer says. Now more extravagant measures are popping up, including ultrasound parties, where a medically trained technician is invited to perform the procedure in the living room for all of your loved ones to see. Beware: This kind of celebration isn't for everyone, as ultrasound parties can get expensive, so plan accordingly. Simpler (yet still dramatic) measures include sending boxes stuffed with pink or blue balloons to family members.

Mommy-moons

Move over, baby-moons. Soon-to-be moms are taking what Thebump.com calls "mommy-moons," mini getaways that pregnant women can take with their girlfriends (and not their husbands) before the arrival of the baby. Beach vacations, spa trips and pampering parties with manicures and pedicures are the most popular choices for women who want one final trip with their friends before their lives change forever. "Pregnant women are looking for ways to pamper themselves [and] spend time with their friends before the baby arrives and they become very busy," says Mauer.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kate Middleton's pregnancy is changing your nursery — and your maternity wear.

Royal baby gear

The whole world has been anticipating the arrival of Kate Middleton and Prince William's baby. Designers have already begun incorporating Middleton's style into some of their maternity wear collections, so pregnant women can emulate royal fashion. "We think the royal baby is going to be a trendsetter and he or she isn't even alive yet," says Mauer. It's only a matter of time before we see the royal baby's style replicated in department stores.

Neon nurseries

Gone are the days of the traditional pink and blue color scheme for baby rooms. "In 2012, there was a lot of neon in fashion," Mauer says. "You saw it on the runway, and now people are bringing it into their nurseries." Big and bold is the new motto. But don't expect to paint the walls electric blue or buy a bright yellow crib, notes Mauer. You are more likely to see neon pink bedding, or a neon green table cover that adds mild pops of color and a bit of trendiness to the nursery — without going overboard.

Bria Mariette
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Letters

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Disagreement is one thing; what the GOP is doing is just silly

RE: "GAME: (N.) THAT WHICH IS PLAYED BY BOTH SIDES" (METRO, MARCH 1-3) Letter writer Kevin Metz is right: We live in a system of checks and balances. Unfortunately, that has nothing to do with what's going on now.

Anyone truly tired of hearing about Republican obstructionism should perhaps take it up with the party. Sen. Mitch McConnell said from day one that their first priority was to make the president fail. Just the other day, Sen. Lindsey Graham admitted on television, likely inadvertently, that the GOP's sole strategy is to oppose anything and everything the president proposes.

Republicans aren't required to rubber-stamp the president's proposals, but, instead of simply rejecting his ideas reflexively, how about giving them some amount of consideration? Just like the majority of the public indicated they wanted them to do with their votes.

This is not "checks and balances"; this is a ridiculously long temper tantrum, and it's destroying both the party and its brand. Those of you who care about that might want to do something about it.

MARC BESCHLER, VIA E-MAIL

Meeting halfway isn't reserved for commuting lovers

It is telling that President Barack Obama chooses to sit down with key leaders after the sequester to discuss what spending cuts and/or service cuts will be decided. Why was he not deeply involved in the process before Americans have to again be hit hard financially? Oh, yes, repeatedly he said both sides should be willing to compromise, yet he himself would not compromise or even entertain suggestions from the other side. He bashed the Republicans for stalling this sequester, but again, where were Mr. Obama's suggestions, interventions and, more particularly, his promise to compromise? As expected, promise not kept.

CATHY WEISENBURGER, VIA E-MAIL

There's a very simple solution to the ridiculous and continuous budget problems confronting this administration: The Democratically controlled Senate needs to pass a budget. But for the past five years, President Obama has instructed Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and his cohorts not to even consider a budget, even though by law a budget must be prepared by the end of February of each year. You see, without a budget, this government can spend without any control. And the spending is the problem.

JOHN E. BEVAN, VIA E-MAIL

Pride and prejudice in comparing animals vs. humans

RE: "THE WILD CALLED: IT WANTS YOUR CAT BACK" (METRO, MARCH 1-3) The argument that animals are inferior to humans is just bizarre. People established such notion on the ground that humans possess higher intelligence. But if this logic is accepted, can we treat humans who have lower IQs or less physical strength or less wealth — however one chooses to measure such criteria — as inferior entities? Wasn't this the same argument that Nazis used in WWII, that one race is superior to another? Animals are not humans, but they deserve respect.

FENG XIA, VIA E-MAIL

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
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Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Nothing worth bragging about is likely to be accomplished if you are too wishy-washy. In fact, your inability to make up your mind could drive everyone crazy.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Don't get so carried away by how well others are doing that you forget to concentrate on furthering your own abilities. Focus on your own efforts.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Just because a certain tactic works well for a friend doesn't necessarily mean that it will for you. Experiment to find your own game plan and then stick to it.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Steer clear of any involvement in which you have no say in the decision-making. Plans made entirely by others might not be best for your interests.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** It won't take you long to lose points with others if you don't hold yourself accountable for your mistakes. This will be especially true if you put the blame everywhere but on yourself.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Wasted time will become a critical factor in hampering your productivity. The chances for accomplishing your aims will be in direct proportion to the time you spend dilly-dallying.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you and your mate are facing a difficult decision, try to work it out yourselves instead of discussing it with outsiders, especially in-laws.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** In order to spare the feelings of another, you might rework the facts. When the truth comes out, it will anger the person whom you wanted to help.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** When it comes to people who helped you acquire something that you badly wanted, of course you should share the rewards. Just don't feel obligated to make a payoff to those who did nothing.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** There is a chance that one of your well-intentioned gestures might produce some unintended and unpleasant effects, causing others to have difficulty in discerning your motives.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Under most conditions, you are a rather determined person. However, friends could talk you into doing things you know you shouldn't, causing you much guilt later.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** A lot of disappointment is possible if you base your expectations on unrealistic premises. Make it a point to try to see things for what they are and not as you wish them to be.

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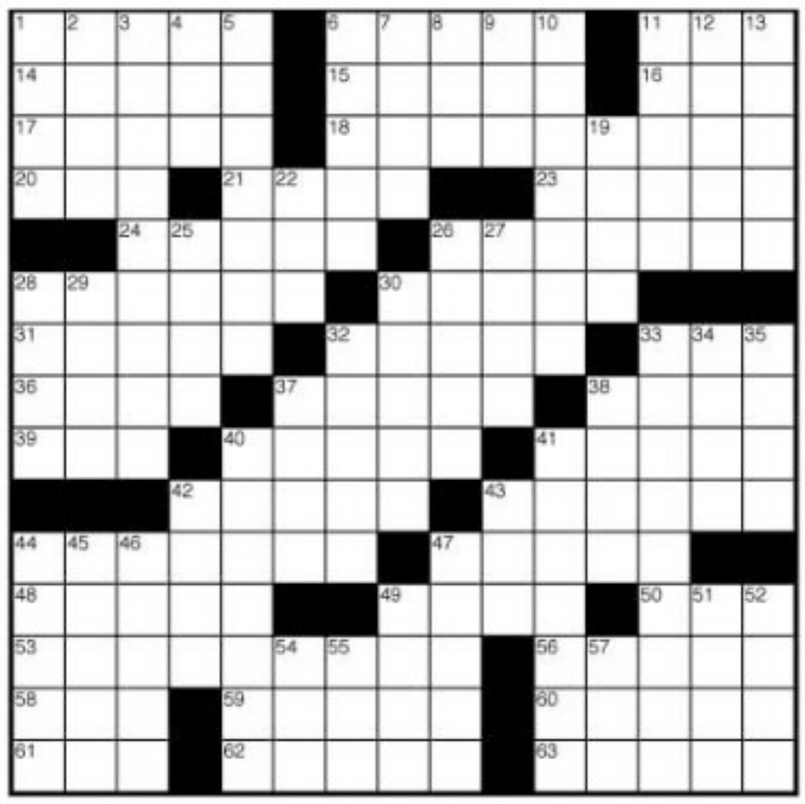
Across
1 John Lennon hit
6 Trailer rental (hyph.)
11 Whale blubber
14 San Antonio landmark
15 Bete —
16 London lav
17 Sturdy fabric
18 Was not sufficient (2 wds.)
20 Gold medal org.
21 Brewery products
23 Brown in butter
24 Surfer wannabe
26 Agenda
28 Rehearsal spot
30 Special effort
31 Type of poem
32 Rolling landscape
33 PC monitor
36 Mayberry kid
37 Rube
38 Jungle warning
39 — — step further
40 Bamboo stalks
41 Blockbuster
42 Narratives
43 Tyrolean tunes
44 Spacecraft segments
47 Hopeless case
48 Not just some
49 Quick turn
50 Truckers' radios
53 Watertight
56 Like a wolf's howl
58 Icy remark?
59 Brisling
60 Act like a ham
61 Consumed
62 Portents
63 Terrific

Down
1 Desert gully
2 Kitchen staple
3 Historic region of China
4 Fifi's date
5 On the move
6 Probably hungry
7 Ground breakers
8 Call in sick
9 Web addr.
10 Teachings
11 Baker's need
12 Main artery
13 Aleut carving
19 "Macbeth" trio
22 — Tzu ("Tao Te Ching" author)
25 Comics pooch
26 Blanches
27 Small brook
28 Wade through
29 Spelling error
30 Walleyed fishes
32 Puts an edge on
33 Soil protector (2 wds.)
34 Banister
35 Uno, dos, —
37 Type of lock
38 Grabbed a taxi
40 Tropical beat
41 "Daydream Believer" group
42 Istanbul native
43 Hither and —
44 Kind of toast
45 In plain view
46 "The Wreck of the Mary —"
47 Presents
49 Baez or Rivers
51 Quick snack
52 Crystal-gazer
54 Tach reading
55 Blast-furnace input
57 Outback bird



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

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O	P	E	C		N	I	L	E		E	L	A	N	D
D	E	S	K		D	A	L	E		D	O	S	E	S

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destinations

Farm-fresh devotees find big flavors in Providence

Take a weekend trip to experience Rhode Island's small city with big taste A rundown of area's hottest culinary spots Foodies welcome

Pork belly and brussel sprout hash is on the menu at XO Cafe.

As home to culinary school Johnson & Wales, Rhode Island's capital city tends to snag its share of new graduates. For dining patrons, that means there is a steady supply of talent in the city's restaurant kitchens. Add to that a rich cultural heritage from generations of Portuguese and Italian immigrants — and proximity to the rich agriculture of New England and the ocean — and the small city of Providence has become a big destination for foodies, especially those who appreciate farm-to-table fare.

Gracie's (194 Washington St., 401-272-7811) in downtown Providence is great stop for farm-fresh junkies. After a few questions from the server — among the friendliest and most helpful in the city — the chef will send out a surprise five-course tasting menu ($75), perhaps with things like a slow-poached farm egg or sea scallops served with a maple-glazed pork belly, all flavored with herbs grown in the restaurant's rooftop garden.

Sunday brunch in Providence is well worth experiencing for two reasons: A Dirty Red Snapper (a house special bloody mary mix with gin and olive juice) and the pork belly and brussel sprout hash and at **XO Cafe (125 N. Main St., 401-273-9090).** The restaurant defies the farm-to-table stereotype and instead rocks more of a let's-do-one-more-shot-of-whiskey atmosphere. Fittingly, the menu has all kinds of hangover busters, like the XO Benedict, a local short rib served with chive potato pancake and chipotle hollandaise.

Culinary tour: For the serious foodie, a visit to **Antonelli Poultry Company** in the city historic Italian Federal Hill district is another must-do. The best way to navigate the area is to sign up for the Savoring Federal Hill culinary tour with chef Cindy Salvato (401-934-2149, $50). Salvato, a former J&W professor, escorts folks through local purveyors to view and taste some of the most authentic just-like-your-noni-made-it goodies. One word of advice: Reserve early. The tour has a months-long wait. METRO

— For flights go to www.flymrt.com.

Favorite foodie hangout

One of Providence's most essential reservations is **New Rivers** (7 Steeple St., 401-751-0350), located near Brown University in an 18th-century warehouse. Last year, the long-time chef Beau Vestal took over the restaurant as owner. His speciality? Cured meats including sweet-and-salty pork belly that melts like candy on the tongue, strips of succulent pastrami beef tongue and smoked fish. The menu leans into seasonal ingredients and showcases the state's natural bounty of seafood with dishes like the maltagliati — a pasta dish served with local clams and kale.

New Rivers restaurant is in an 18th-century river warehouse near Brown University. It specializes in cured meats.

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Sports in brief

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Reed elaborates on potential of playing for Pats

Safety Ed Reed and Patriots coach Bill Belichick have held each other in the highest of regard for years.

With Reed about to become an unrestricted free agent on March 12, it seemed as though the chances of him winding up in Foxboro were nearly as great as him returning to the Super Bowl champion Ravens. Reed pumped the brakes on that narrative a bit yesterday.

"I was just asked the question at [the Super Bowl], but I am a Raven, plan on being a Raven," the 34-year-old, eight-time All-Pro said on NFL Network's "NFL AM" show. "I couldn't see myself anywhere else, but if it happens I am a football player. I can adapt to any situation."

The Patriots did not use their franchise tag on any player yesterday at the NFL deadline. **MATT BURKE**

Red Sox owner Henry's soccer team hurting

Red Sox owner John Henry has maintained that the finances of his soccer franchise, Liverpool of the Premier League, do not affect the spending habits of his baseball team on Yawkey Way. But many Red Sox fans paused yesterday with the news that Liverpool's debt rose by a third to more than $130 million in less than a year, according to The Associated Press. **METRO/MB**

Yankees GM Cashman hurt skydiving

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman fractured his right ankle yesterday while skydiving at an Air Force base in Florida. **METRO/MB**

Metro's NBA power rankings | by Jimmy Toscano

GETTY IMAGES

1 HEAT (43-14)
A 14-game win streak. Is that good? Nope. It's freakin' awesome — and so are the Heat right now. This team hasn't lost in more than a month, and LeBron James is playing at an otherwordly level.

2 THUNDER (43-16)
A tough loss in Denver was followed up by a big win against the Clippers to lock the OKC in at the No. 2 spot this week. Miami No. 1, OKC No. 2. It's 2012 all over again.

3 SPURS (47-14)
Tony Parker (ankle) will be down for about a month. He's been the reason the Spurs have overcome injuries. Can they return the favor in the month of March?

4 CLIPPERS (43-19)
Los Angeles is still one of the deepest teams in the NBA, which will be huge for them in this year's Western Conference playoffs. Depth could be a big advantage against a team like San Antonio, which always seems to be banged up.

5 GRIZZLIES (39-19)
The second hottest team in the league behind the Heat has gone 9-1 in their last 10 games, losing to just — you guessed it — the Heat. An OKC-Memphis second round sounds exciting.

6 PACERS (38-22)
The last game the Heat lost was against Indiana and the two will play again, this time in Miami, on Sunday. We'll learn a lot about the Pacers here. Are they the team in the East that could actually challenge Miami?

7 NUGGETS (38-22)
Say what you want about the Nuggets' lack of star power, but Ty Lawson is averaging 23. 1 points and 7.6 assists over his last 10 games. This included the game-winner against OKC.

8 KNICKS (35-21)
The Knicks posted 37 points in the second quarter against the Heat on Sunday, but just 34 points combined in the third and fourth. They move up the ranks this week by default.

9 HAWKS (33-25)
At the start of this week, the Hawks were holding down the No. 4 slot in the East. But they were also just two games from falling down to No. 7. Will they hold on?

10 BULLS (34-26)
Joakim Noah looks like a man amongst boys out there as of late, but the Bulls are playing below-.500 basketball since late January. Head coach Tom Thibodeau doesn't look too happy on the sidelines — but, then again, does he ever?

11 NETS (34-26)
Hopefully Jay-Z is too busy planning his summer stadium tour with Justin Timberlake to notice that his team has lost four of its last five games. They've slid two spots here since last week.

12 ROCKETS (33-28)
What does a No. 1-ranked offense and a No. 29-ranked defense get you? Fun basketball games. Unfortunately "fun" doesn't often equal "success" in the NBA. Give it up for ... Chandler Parsons?

13 CELTICS (31-27)
Four games in six days for the C's, including a back-to-back on the road. They could easily go 4-0 or 0-4 in this stretch. Yup, that's been the theme for Doc Rivers' crew this year.

14 WARRIORS (33-27)
The Warriors have two big problems. First, they don't play much defense. Second, they can't win on the road. Unfortunately for them, that spells early playoff exit.

15 JAZZ (32-27)
The good news: The Jazz are 22-8 at home this season. The bad news: Five of their next six are on the road, where they've gone 10-19. They've held firm at the No. 15 spot.

16 BUCKS (29-28)
J.J. Redick has hit double figures in scoring every night since being traded to Milwaukee. As it stands now, the Bucks would play the Heat in the first round of the playoffs. Imagine if the Bucks w — nah, never mind.

17 LAKERS (30-30)
It might sound crazy, especially considering this team is always an injury away from going into another tailspin, but with the Warriors, Jazz and Rockets ahead of L.A., the No. 6 seed is still attainable.

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Partners Human Research Committee
APPROVAL Effective Date
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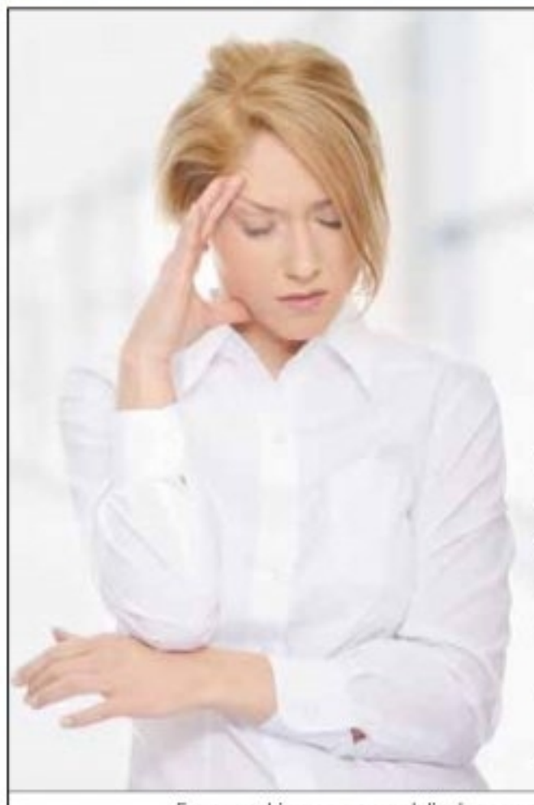

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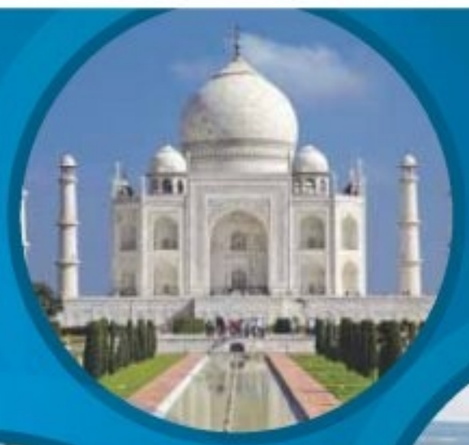

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